



City of Durham Durham County

Joint News Release

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Share! #Durham residents asked to bring old & unused tires for free disposal May 6

Durham Hosts 2nd Annual Tire Recycling Drive May 6

Residents Asked to Bring Old and Unused Tires to City's Recycling Facility

DURHAM, N.C. – If you have old or unused tires around your home, now is the time to get rid of them at no cost this Saturday.

Durham residents are encouraged to dispose of old tires at the City of Durham Waste Disposal and Recycling Center, 2115 E. Club Blvd., on Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. until noon. Tire disposal is free and open to the public.

The Durham Tire Recycling Drive is a City-County collaborative effort to encourage environmentally responsible tire disposal and to prevent mosquito breeding and the potential diseases they can carry. The initiative involves: Durham County Division of Environmental Health, Durham County General Services, City of Durham Solid Waste Management Department, City of Durham Neighborhood Improvement Services Department, City of Durham General Services Department, and Keep Durham Beautiful.

“Even though Zika virus has not been talked about as much this year, container-breeding mosquitoes, such as Asian tiger mosquitoes, are capable of carrying Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue fever. Removing old tires from the environment will help eliminate breeding sites and thus lower the risk of disease,” said Chris Salter, director of the Durham County Environmental Health Division. “It’s also good for the environment. Tires are designed to be durable and are a

tremendous problem for our environment.” Residents are also encouraged to dump standing water from flower pots and other vessels weekly.

Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 and is named after the Zika Forest in Uganda. Zika can be transmitted through mosquito bites, from a pregnant woman to her fetus, through sex, and through blood transfusion. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), as of April 26, 2017, there have been 100 cases of Zika since 2015 in North Carolina. About 1-in-10 U.S. pregnant women with confirmed Zika infection had a fetus or baby with birth defects in 2016.

Preventing the Zika virus isn’t the only benefit of recycling tires. This event also helps residents clean up their properties and repurpose old and unused tires by recycling. “Last year we collected 975 tires,” said Tania Dautlick, executive director of Keep Durham Beautiful. “Our volunteers are eager to help members of the Durham community recycle their tires again at this free annual collection event.”

For more information about this year’s event, contact Dautlick at (919) 354-2729 or tania@keepdurhambeautiful.org.

About the Durham County Division of Environmental Health

The [Durham County Environmental Health Division](#) is part of the Department of Public Health. The division promotes and protects public health through mandated inspections and the enforcement of local and state public health laws, rules, and regulations. Services include: onsite water protection, well water testing, septic systems, public swimming pools and spas inspections, restaurant inspections, and general inspections. For more information, visit the [website](#) or call (919) 560-7800.

About Keep Durham Beautiful

[Keep Durham Beautiful](#) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization working in partnership with the [City of Durham General Services Department](#) and [Durham County](#) to encourage residents, businesses, and community organizations to protect the environment and enhance the appearance of Durham through cleanup events, beautification projects, waste reduction, and educational activities. To learn more, visit the [website](#), like on [Facebook](#), and follow on [Instagram](#), [flickr](#), and [Twitter](#).

About the City of Durham Solid Waste Management Department

The [Solid Waste Management Department](#) promotes and supports a high quality of life for the residents of Durham by providing comprehensive, responsive, environmentally-safe, efficient, and cost-effective solid waste collection, recycling, and disposal programs. Department services include roll-out cart collection, cart delivery and repair service, cardboard collection, yard waste collection, waste reduction and recycling, bulky item pick-up, and disposal services. The departmental supports the City's [Strategic Plan](#) by providing professional management that contributes to creating thriving, livable neighborhoods as well as an innovative and high-performing organization.

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